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BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,

February 28th, 1860.

Read and ordered to be printed.

MINORITY REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON CORPORATIONS

TO THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,

RELATIVE TO THE

BALTIMORE CITY PASSENGER RAILWAY.

R E P O R T .

The Committee having investigated the charges of fraud and corruption in the obtention of the Ordinance of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, passed and approved March 28th, 1859, in relation to the Baltimore City Passenger Railway, beg leave to report, that they have examined a great number of witnesses and taken a large mass of evidence, which they herewith submit to the consideration of the House.

After the most diligent investigation, the committee have failed to obtain evidence of fraud and corruption, either on the part of the city council or assignees. The utmost efforts have failed to show that any bribe was offered or consideration received on the part of the city council, or that the grantees used any undue influence on the same.

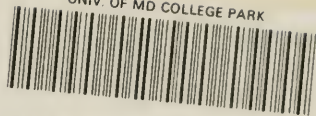
In regard to the allegations that the assignees and their associates belong to the Republican party, which is justly obnoxious to the people of Maryland, the committee have been satisfied of the utter groundlessness of the charge, by letters and certificates from gentlemen of the highest character. The seventh section does not provide for the amount of the capital stock to be subscribed, nor the value of the shares, nor the payment of the subscription money, nor for the election of directors or managers, nor does it define the relative power or influence which the several stockholders shall have in the conduct of the business of the partnership. There exists no where any power to exclude any one offering to subscribe on the ground of pecuniary inability to pay, or any moral considerations.

In regard to the opening of books for subscription, Messrs. Brock & Co. have acted under the advice of counsel, who were very decidedly in their conviction, that the observance of the

section was not binding and obligatory on the assignees. In relation to the fare charged or allowed to be charged under the ordinance, the amount of four cents for each passenger goes to the company, and the other cent for the purchase of Parks in the city of Baltimore. There has been no evidence before the committee to satisfy it that a rate of fare of less than four cents would remunerate parties working such roads, and the experience of other cities seem to prove the contrary. As to the "Park cent," the committee, viewing this subject as a local matter, leave to the City Council of Baltimore hereafter to be elected, and who have the power, under said ordinance, to dispense with this tax, if in their judgment the people of Baltimore so desire it; then the railways can be operated upon the charge of four cents only, for the transportation of each passenger from any part of the city to another, upon the line of said road.

G. W. GOLDSBOROUGH, Chairman,
 JAMES W. MAXWELL,
 A. MEDDERS,
 W. HENRY LEGG,
 A. K. STAKE,
 CHAS. A. HARDING.

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